



“A Gruesome End, A Glorious New Beginning” (Zechariah 14)

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vv.1-2 Ezekiel 38-39 gives prophetic detail in actually telling us who some of these nations are who come against Israel in the last days. (See chart from Joel Rosenberg). Note Ezek.37:22, 27-28; 39:21. These verses indicate to me that this is the same battle we are reading about in Zechariah 14.

vv.3-5 We are not sure where ancient Azel was, but it was known to the Jews in the days of the earthquake when Uzziah was king (Amos 1:1). Refer to Acts 1, where it is recorded that Jesus ascended to heaven after appearing to his disciples over a period of forty days after the resurrection (Acts 1:6-12a). Who are the holy ones who will come with the Lord on this day? See Rev.19:11-16; I Thess.4:13-18; 3:11; Col.3:4; Jude 14-15.

vv.6-7 Isa.13:10; 24:23; *Joel 3:14-16*; Matt.24:29-30; foreshadow of the future (*Rev.21:23, 25*).

v.8 This is fascinating. The eastern sea is the Dead Sea & the western the Mediterranean. This river will not be affected by the seasons, but will flow continually, abundantly. When the water flows to these two seas, dramatic changes will take place. See *Isa.27:6; 35:1-2, 6* (context); *Ps.46:4; Joel 3:18; Amos 9:13-15; Ezekiel 47:1-12*; foreshadow of the future (*Rev.22:1-5*).

v.9 See *Ps.2:8-9; 47:2; 93:1; 97:1; 99:1-2; Hab.2:13-14*; foreshadow of the future (*Isaiah 9:7*). No more elections, political parties, millions of dollars spent on campaigns. No more Islam, Mormon, JW's, Scientology, Christian Science, Christian denominations, Calvinists and Arminianists, etc.

v.10a The Arabah is the name for the deep rift that extends from the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan Valley through the Dead Sea and south to the Sea of Aqaba. It is the deepest depression of the face of the planet. The Sea of Galilee is 652 feet below sea level, and the Dead Sea is almost 1300 feet below sea level. Geba (modern Jaba) is about 6 miles northeast of Jerusalem, and Rimmon is approx. 33 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

The picture portrayed is the surrounding area all around Jerusalem. Jerusalem is leveled (Perhaps by the earthquake), and Jerusalem itself is literally lifted above everything else around it. See *Micah 4:1-3; Isaiah 2:2*. Foreshadow of the future (*Rev.21:2*).

v.11 See Isa.32:18; 33:20, 22; *Amos 9:15* Foreshadow of the future (*Rev.20:7-10*). David captured Jerusalem from the Jebusites around 1000 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar captured it in 586 B.C., destroyed the temple, and exiled the Jews to Babylon; Persia later took over, and after that Alexander the Great & Greece; Next was Ptolemy I of Egypt in 323 B.C.; then in 198 B.C. the Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes (Syria). The Jews later revolted led by the Maccabees and the temple was reconstructed in 165 B.C. Rome took the city in 63 B.C. In 70 A.D., while suppressing a major Jewish revolt, Rome destroyed the temple once again. In 638 A.D. Muslim Arabs took over Jerusalem and built the Dome of the Rock mosque on the site of the Temple. In 1099 A.D. the Crusaders conquered Jerusalem and created a Crusader state. Saladin recaptured the city for the Muslims in 1187 A.D. They ruled until 1517 A.D. when the Ottoman Empire took control. This went on until 1917 when the British took over. Under British rule it was named Palestine. The city was divided between Arabs and Jews until 1967 when the Jews captured the entire city following the Six Day War. Ever since it has been a daily struggle for Israel to survive as she is surrounded by a multitude of enemies who would love to see her fall one final time. But it is not going to happen!

v.12 Raiders of the Lost Ark kinda stuff!

v.13 See Judges 7:22; II Chron.20:23.

v.16 Unbelieving Gentiles will enter into this time known as the millennium, or the thousand year reign of Christ (*Rev.20:4-6*). See also *Daniel 7:11-12*.

The Feast of Tabernacles will be the only feast unfulfilled in its “type.”

- Passover – Calvary and the blood sacrifice
- Unleavened Bread – Jesus as the bread of life
- Firstfruits – Resurrection
- Pentecost – Acts 2
- Trumpets – Tribulation & Second Coming
- Day of Atonement – Calvary & Israel’s salvation
- Tabernacles – Millennium & beyond

vv.17-19 This hints at a rebellion against King Jesus at some point during the thousand year reign. How soon sparks of rebellion occur we are not told. But we know, at the end of the thousand year reign, Satan leads one final rebellion that ends quickly and climatically (see *Rev.20:7-10*). Egypt is singled out here, perhaps because it was the first nation to persecute the Jews & as a result the first to feel the weight of God’s displeasure in the 10 plagues. Present day Egypt does not get a lot of annual rainfall, but during the millennium the Sahara will become like a garden.

vv.20-21 No secular verses sacred in this coming day, everything will be sacred. And no one will ever enter to defile things. See Rev.21:27. To Israel, "Canaanite" came to mean a degenerate person.

- No wars (Isa.2:4; Micah 4:3).
- No United Nations, but nations will still maintain their individual identity (Rev.21:24).
- Those who enter the millennium as believers will be the government officials (Rev.20:6).
- Crime not tolerated (Isa.11:3-4).
- The animal kingdom will not be wild (Isa.11:6; 65:25).
- Prosperity will abound (Isa.65:23).
- Agriculture will thrive (Amos 9:13).
- People will live much longer (Isa.65:20).
- Prayers will be answered before they are prayed (Isa.65:24).

Note: The good things that Jesus brings about in the world during this time all point to a future prophetic day. As good as things are on the earth during the millennium, they will not be perfect. People will still die, even though they will die at an older age. And the unsaved will ultimately rebel against the king. I believe one of God's purposes in this time will be to prove that man has a tendency to rebel against God, even when Satan is not here to entice him. So we look forward to a time prophesied even better than the thousand year reign of Christ. That day is prophesied in Rev.21.

Revelation 21:1-5 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."